

August 29, 2003

LOCAL OFFICERS RECEIVE “LONE EAGLE” AWARD

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem presented the Lone Eagle award during the 2003 North Dakota Peace Officers Association annual convention, held this year in Grand Forks.

The award is presented each year to two peace officers – one active and one retired - who have demonstrated high moral and ethical principals, devotion to public service, and inspired their peers by example. Retired ND FBI agent Herb Eckenroth created the award in 1979.

This year’s recipients are Williams County Sheriff Scott Busching and retired Hettinger County Sheriff Robert “Bob” Norton.

“The Lone Eagle award recognizes the achievements of two extraordinary individuals whose careers exemplify every good quality we demand of our peace officers,” commented Stenehjem. “Both officers are dedicated professionals who have succeeded in balancing the demands of public service with a family. These men are outstanding law enforcement officers, well-liked and widely respected within their local communities and now acknowledged by their peers to be true leaders. I consider it a great honor to present the award to these officers,” he continued.

Sheriff Bob Norton (Ret.) was the Hettinger County Sheriff for 16 years until his retirement in 2002. A 1962 graduate of Minto High School, Norton served in the National Guard and then in the US Army including a tour in Vietnam. He received both a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, and was discharged from the Army in 1978. He began his law enforcement career in 1980, as a police officer with the Mott Police Department, where he remained until his election as Hettinger County Sheriff. Norton graduated from the FBI Academy in 1996 and was an instructor at the North Dakota Police Academy. He is a strong supporter of drug prevention and education programs for kids, and was instrumental in bringing the CounterACT Program to schools in his community. As an advocate for the state’s peace officers, Norton took an active role in supporting legislation to improve officer benefits, even testifying before the legislature last session.

Williams County Sheriff Scott Busching served 4 years as a Ranger with the US Army before beginning a career in law enforcement in 1976. He worked as a biological enforcement technician with the US Fish & Wildlife Service until 1981. He joined the Crosby Police Department part-time before resigning his federal position, and then did double-duty working part-time at Crosby and part-time as a deputy with the Divide County Sheriff’s office.

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He transferred to Williams County as a full-time deputy in 1982 and was elected Sheriff in 1998. Busching is a graduate of the FBI Academy, a former SWAT team member certified to teach SWAT Tactics, and has over 1900 hours of police training. He qualified as one of the state's top law enforcement pistol marksmen, finishing 2nd in the Governor's 'Top 20' shooting competition in 2001. He is also an avid hunter and fisherman. Busching is on the ND Peace Officers Standards & Training Board and is a valued member of the North Dakota Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

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